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By: **Senators Frosh, Pinsky, Hollinger, Conway, Sfikas, and Dyson**  
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2000  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Environment - Registry of Voluntary Reductions in Greenhouse Gas**  
3                                   **Emissions**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and  
5 administer a certain registry of voluntary reductions in greenhouse gas  
6 emissions for certain purposes; requiring the Department to adopt certain  
7 regulations; requiring the Department to conduct a certain study and submit a  
8 certain report on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; and generally  
9 relating to the establishment of a registry of voluntary reductions in greenhouse  
10 gas emissions.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article - Environment  
13 Section 2-103.3  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18                                   **Article - Environment**

19 2-103.3.

20 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
21 INDICATED.

22 (2) "EMISSION" MEANS A RELEASE INTO THE OUTDOOR ATMOSPHERE  
23 OF A GREENHOUSE GAS.

24 (3) "GREENHOUSE GAS" INCLUDES CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE,  
25 NITROUS OXIDE, HYDROFLUOROCARBONS, PERFLUOROCARBONS, AND SULFUR  
26 HEXAFLUORIDE.

27 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A REGISTRY  
28 OF VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN WHICH A SOURCE

1 OF A GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION MAY REGISTER ANY VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN  
2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

3 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE REGISTRY IS TO HELP SOURCES ESTABLISH A  
4 BASELINE AGAINST WHICH ANY FUTURE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REDUCING  
5 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MAY APPLY.

6 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS  
7 SECTION THAT INCLUDE:

8 (1) INFORMATION, FORMS, PROCEDURES, AND APPLICABLE  
9 THRESHOLDS FOR REGISTERING VOLUNTARILY ACHIEVED REDUCTIONS OF  
10 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS;

11 (2) METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR CALCULATING, ESTIMATING, OR  
12 OTHERWISE QUANTIFYING VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS  
13 EMISSIONS;

14 (3) METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR VERIFYING, WHERE NECESSARY,  
15 THAT EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TO BE REGISTERED HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN  
16 ACHIEVED; AND

17 (4) METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING OR VERIFYING THE  
18 OWNERSHIP OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TO AVOID DOUBLE  
19 COUNTING THESE REDUCTIONS.

20 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE  
21 WHETHER CREATING A PARTICULATE MATTER REGISTRY SIMILAR TO THE  
22 GREENHOUSE GAS REGISTRY ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION WOULD PROVIDE  
23 AN OVERALL BENEFIT TO THE STATE.

24 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2000, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
25 REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE  
26 RESULTS OF THIS STUDY, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION,  
27 TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE SENATE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
28 AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL  
29 ASSEMBLY.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2000.